Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly

CUMTUX

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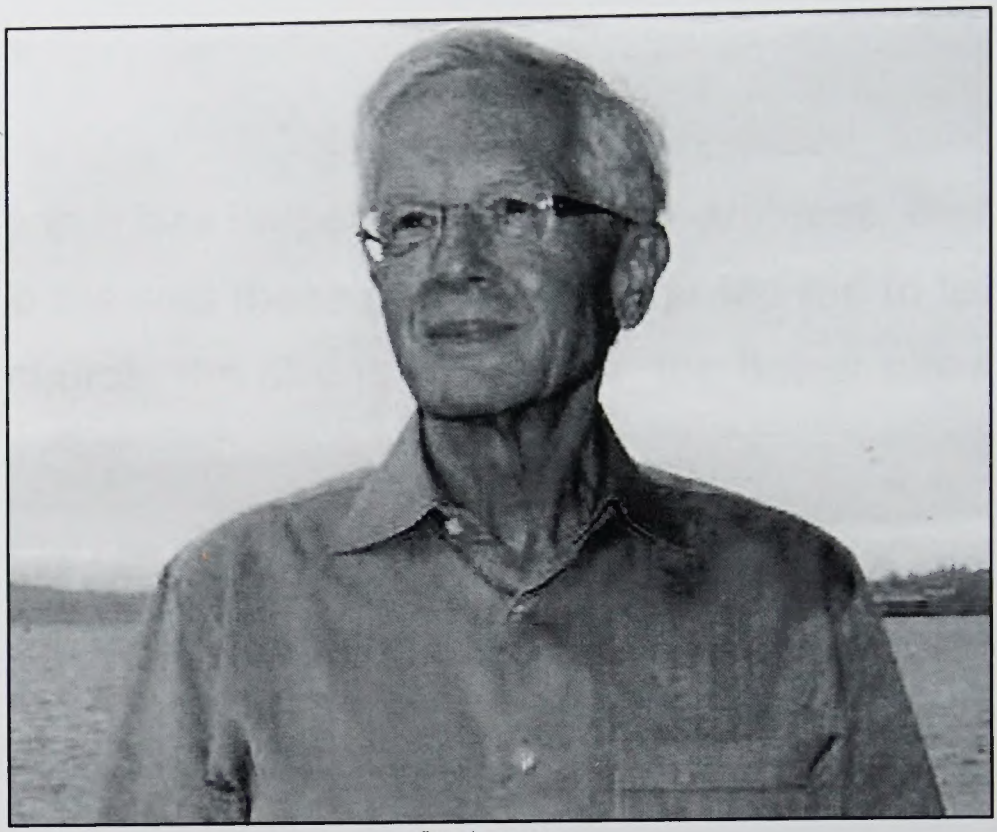

Image courtesy of Jim Aalberg.

Jim Aalberg

In This Issue . . .

An introduction by Jim Aalburg, author of "Floating Forests" in this issue:

While researching my book *The Company Towns of Clatsop County,* I became acquainted with Eric Evenson, a fourth-generation logger, residing in Clatskanie. Eric shared with me his extensive family archives and photographs, dating back to the late 1890s. A portion of these archives related to his great-grandfather's construction of massive log rafts. Much has been written previously about these rafts. But, nothing focused on the economic and financial facts behind the scene. To me, it is a story that personifies ingenuity, creativity, brilliant engineering, risk-taking, and drive that is behind the advantages we enjoy today. I have always had an affinity for our area's history, particularly regarding logging and sawmilling, businesses my great great grandfather, John West, engaged in at Westport. See his story in the Winter 2005 issue of Cumtux.

Editor's Note: This issue also includes a story about Uniontown that Roy Schulback presented in 1994 at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem.

—The Editor

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Front Cover:
Circa 1920. Two sternwheelers pushing a raft downriver towards the mouth of the Columbia. The raft's dimensions are: width fifty-five feet; maximum depth thirty-five feet; length 960 feet; draught twenty-six to twenty-eight feet. Over 1,000 feet of two-inch wide chains weighing 270 tons encircled the raft eighty times. When the rafts were broken up in the mill pond at the Benson Lumber Company sawmill at San Diego, California, these chains were shipped back on steamships. One of the steamships used was the *Frank Lynch* owned by Frank Lynch owner of the Benson Lumber Co.
Image courtesy of Eric M. Evenson.

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:
"To know…to inform"

CCHS Sam Churchill collection #6867.909

Astoria harbor during the 1933 Astoria Regatta as viewed from the deck of the *USS Constitution*.
A Benson-style log raft is tied up at the docks.